

COMMENTS

The Examiner has rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) Claims 1-15 as being unpatentable over Battat, et al (US 5,958,012) in view of Moore, et al (US 2003/0200390) in further view of Dere (US 5,802,286).

Claim 1 as amended includes a limitation of reusing (“recycling”) information gathered in the generating of prior SAN topology perspectives. In addition Claim 1 now includes a limitation of including memory in the topology viewer for storing information pertaining to previously requested topology perspectives. These limitations were originally listed in dependent claims 6 and 7. Furthermore, Claim 1 now includes a limitation that the management system is enabled to generate a physical view of data paths given a logical connection. The Examiner has asserted that Battat has taught the use of information gained from previously requested topology perspectives in Figs. 2 and 3 of Battat. Applicants respectfully disagree that this limitation is taught or suggested in these two figures. Fig. 2 of Battat appears to be a very general depiction of a control loop of a virtual reality workstation software system. Fig. 3 of Battat appears to be a depiction of the processing and responding of events related to the virtual reality system. The second limitation in amended Claim 1 of including memory in the topology viewer for storing information pertaining to previously requested topology perspectives was originally the content of dependent Claim 7. The Examiner has rejected Claim 7 and references Battat at Col. 10, line 12 and Battat Figure numbers 101 and 102. Applicants find no discussion of find no discussion of memory in a topology viewer at Col. 10, line 12 in Battat. Figure references 101 and 102 in Battat appear to describe a general computer system. Applicants certainly agree that computers have memory but

respectfully disagree that Battat teaches a topology viewer with memory allocated for information gained from previously requested perspectives. Furthermore, the claim restriction enabling a view of physical connections to be generated given a logical connection does not appear to be taught by Battat or Battat in combination with Dere or Moore.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 2, 3, 4, and 5 as being taught by Battat. Applicants believe that amended Claim 1 is allowable over Battat. Furthermore, applicants believe that amended Claim 1 is allowable over Battat in view of Moore and Dere. Therefore, Applicants believe that Claims 2, 3, 4, and 5 which add further limitations are allowable over these references.

The Examiner has rejected Claim 8. Claim 8 is dependent on amended Claim 1 which is now believed to be in condition of allowance. Therefore Applicants believe that Claim 8 is now in condition of allowance.

The Examiner has rejected Claim 9 as being unpatentable over Battat in view of Moore and further in view of Dere.

Claim 9 has now been amended to include the limitation of utilizing information gathered in the generating of prior SAN topology perspectives by the SAN management program from memory in the SAN management program allocated for that purpose. Claim 9 as amended also includes a limitation requiring the enablement of generating a physical view of connections given a logical view. Applicants believe that these limitations clearly distinguish the present invention over the prior art.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 10, 11, 12, and 13. Claims 10, 11, 12, and 13 are dependent on Claim 9 which Applicants believe is allowable.

The Examiner has rejected Claim 14. Claim 14 includes several limitations which do not appear to be taught by Battat or Battat in combination with Moore or Dere. Claim 14 includes logic means for reusing information from a previous request for a perspective (which was stored in memory for that information). In addition, the process enables the generation of multiple physical connections given a logical connection. Applicants do not find a reading that teaches this combination of logic means in the cited references. Therefore Applicants believe Claim 14 is allowable.

The Examiner has rejected Claim 15. Claim 15 has been cancelled.

The inventions in Battat, Dere, and Moore relate to virtual reality methods of implementing network and SAN viewers. The present invention relates specifically to an apparatus and method of generating perspectives of a SAN topology. A perspective of a SAN network is broader than a simpler network view. For example, in a host perspective, a data path from a host to a storage subsystem might have many individual paths going over different networks or network paths. The claim limitations included in the present amendment recite this limitation. Also the inventive feature of reusing information from previous requests for perspectives is included as claim limitations. Support for the amended claim limitations are described in the specification.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe the claims in their present form are allowable over the prior art and respectfully request reconsideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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